

REMARKS

Please enter the Preliminary Amendment hereby made to independent claim 1. An Information Disclosure Statement is also being submitted herewith.

The Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Applicant has hereby amended claim 1, the sole independent claim, to include the recitation of, *inter alia*, “a generally flat dampening insert interposed between said body and said handlebar mounts.

Argument

None of the art disclosed, which Applicant has cited in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith, teaches or suggests a one-piece dampening insert which spans a portion of the elongated body in order to be interposed between the elongated body and both of the lower handlebar clamps, as claimed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,712,541 (Henricksen) requires a plurality of cone-shaped dampeners (see, for example, Figures 1-3, showing eight separate cone dampeners, four top dampeners 14,15,16,17 and four lower dampeners 18,19,20,21; see also column 2, lines 40-50). More specifically, as claimed, the Henricksen reference requires at least first and second spaced mounting locations for each lower handlebar clamp. The claimed invention has one mounting location per lower handlebar clamp (see Applicant’s Figures 3 and 4). Each mounting location in Henricksen has two cone-shaped dampeners, for a total of four separate dampeners per lower handlebar clamp. Accordingly, not only does Henricksen not teach or suggest a ***generally flat*** dampening insert on the top surface of the elongated triple clamp body (Figure 5) interposed between the lower handlebar clamps and the elongated body, but the cone-shaped plurality of separate fasteners in fact teaches away therefrom.

It is therefore, submitted that claims 1-16, as amended, are patentable over the references of record. Early allowance is requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

An Information Disclosure Statement, including prior art patent citations, is enclosed. A Preliminary Amendment has been made in view of such art and in order to place the claimed invention in condition for the receipt of the Notice of Allowance.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the application is patentable over the references of record. Early allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant E. Coffield".

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